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JAN 1 7 2007

520.38979CX!

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

T. ONO, et al.

Serial No:

10/671,608

Filed:

SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

Title:

SAMPLE SURFACE PROCESSING METHOD

Group AU:

1765

Examiner:

Ahmed, Shamim

Confirm. No:

8510

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop: AMEND – FEE Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 17, 2007

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 17, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as listed in the following, and as set forth on the following pages:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION;

REMARKS are included following the amendments; and

A Substitute Abstract is set forth in an Appendix hereto.